

REMARKS

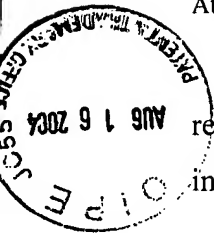
The Office Action of May 14, 2004 has been reviewed, and the Examiner's comments carefully considered.

Claims 44-88 are currently pending in this application. Claims 44, 65, 69, and 73 have been amended. Claims 46, 53-64, and 71-72 are canceled. Therefore, claims 44-45, 47-52, 65-70, 73-88 remain in this application.

The Examiner has previously acknowledged that claims 82-88 are allowed as they comprise the limitations of original claims 58-64 rewritten in independent form; claims 73-81 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and claims 58-70 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, the Examiner has advised Applicant that if claims 58-70 are rewritten in independent form, they will be identical to claims 82-88. Hence, Applicant has rewritten claims 65 and 69 (from series of claims 65-70) to depend from previously allowed claim 82. Thus, the current allowed claims are claims 65-70, 73-81, and 82-88.

Support for all amendments to the claims can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by this Amendment.

During the course of August 10-12, 2004, Applicant and the Examiner have communicated regarding the outstanding rejections that would prevent allowance of independent claim 44 sought by Applicant. Pursuant to the communications, the Examiner has informed Applicant that claim 44 would be in condition for allowance if Applicant amends claim 44 to include the limitations of claim 46 and describes the conductive tip as being a single piece. Accordingly, Applicant hereby amends claim 44 to include the **"no more than 1 mm"** limitation (and canceling claim 46) and a **"of unitary construction"** limitation in regard to the conductive tip. Applicant kindly asks that Examiner please contact Applicant if the "of unitary construction" limitation is not to the Examiner's liking, as Applicant would be amenable to an Examiner's amendment for any corrections. Claims 45 and 47-52 depend from and add further limitations to claim 44 and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reason amended independent claim 44 is patentable.



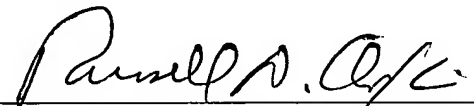
The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for taking the time and effort to review the application after final and discuss Applicant's proposed amendments and arguments in support thereof.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that claims 44-45, 47-52, 65-70, 73-88 are in condition for allowance. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition to pass to issue in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 

Russell D. Orkin, Reg. No. 25,363
Attorney for Applicant
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094
E-Mail: webblaw@webblaw.com